
MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 21, 24-27 and 29 were pending in this case. Claims 24 and 29 are being cancelled by this Amendment, leaving Claims 1-6, 8-11, 21, 25, 26 and 27 for consideration.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A multi-purpose tool comprising:

a housing having a periphery that includes a bottom wall ~~and a first side wall; a recess that extends into said bottom wall and forms a base opening in said bottom wall;~~ and two parallel sidewalls connected orthogonally to, and spaced apart from one another by a bottom wall;

~~said recess extends into said first sidewall and forms a wall opening in said first sidewall;~~ a corner recess formed at the corner of said housing in said two parallel sidewalls and in said bottom wall, said two sidewalls and said bottom wall together forming an opening in said bottom wall and openings in said sidewalls;

a stapler comprising a hinged end from which extend a stapler base and an activating member and a stapler open end for receiving materials to be stapled, wherein said stapler base ~~extends into said base opening~~ lies substantially flush with and forms a portion of said bottom wall and the sides of said stapler lie substantially flush with and form portions of said two parallel sidewalls, substantially filling said recess, and ~~when said actuating stapler member is~~ releasably secured to said housing in a manner to position said stapler open end at said ~~wall opening corner recess~~.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The tool of claim 1 wherein said recess is defined by an inclined wall that extends from said first side wall into a curved

portion, said curved portion merging into an end wall that terminates at said bottom wall.

3. (ORIGINAL) The tool of claim 2 wherein said recess is formed with at least two opposing undercut slots that extend from said first side wall along said inclined wall and said curved portion, said slots terminating at said end wall.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The tool of claim 3 further comprising at least two opposing flanges extending longitudinally along said actuating member for frictional engagement with a corresponding undercut slot when said stapler is secured to said housing.

5. (ORIGINAL) The tool of claim 3 wherein said slots have a decreasing width along said inclined wall.

6. (ORIGINAL) The tool of claim 5 wherein said curved portion defines a transition area and said width diminishes in said transition area.

7. (CANCELED)

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The tool of claim 1 wherein said stapler base has an outwardly extending tab and wherein said housing is formed with an indentation on said bottom wall, said tab being engageable with said indentation when said stapler is secured to said recess.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The tool of claim 1 wherein said housing includes a corner opening and further comprising:
a hole punch; and,

a holding means for selectively fixing said hole punch in said corner opening.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The tool of claim 9 wherein said housing has a front wall and a rear wall with a first guide rail formed in said front wall and a second guide rail formed in said rear wall, and wherein said punch includes a punch casing having opposing grooves that frictionally engage said guide rails when said hole punch is inserted into said corner opening and fixed to said housing.

11. (ORIGINAL) The tool of claim 1 wherein said housing has an aperture and further comprising:

a lighting means mounted within said housing and oriented for illumination through said aperture; and,

an activating means attached to said housing and electrically connected to said lighting means for selective illumination of said lighting means.

Claims 12 – 20 (CANCELED)

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A multi-purpose tool comprising a housing having peripheral walls that include a corner recess consisting of ~~[[a]]~~ two parallel side wall opening openings and a bottom wall opening, said housing ~~containing~~ including a detachable stapler comprising a base and two side surfaces joining said side walls to one another, and an actuating member hingably attached to said base to form a hinged end and an open end, said open end providing access for materials to be stapled, said ~~base extending into said bottom wall opening~~ stapler base and two side surfaces lying substantially flush with and forming at least a portion of said bottom wall and said two parallel sidewalls, substantially filling said corner recess, said actuating member being attached to said housing with said open end being located at said side wall ~~opening openings~~.

22. (CANCELED)

23. (CANCELED)

24. (CANCELED)

25. (CANCELED)

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The tool of ~~claim 25~~ claim 21 wherein the open end of said stapler is proximate to said side wall.

27. (CANCELED)

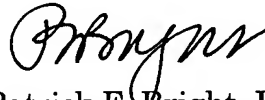
28. (CANCELED)

29. (CANCELED)

REMARKS

Applicants have here amended independent claims 1 and 21 to state that the stapler, when attached to the recess in the tool housing, has its two side surfaces and its bottom surface substantially flush with the corresponding sidewalls and bottom wall of the recess in the tool, substantially filling the recess. None of the cited references discloses or suggests this claimed structure. Applicant's counsel requests the Examiner to call counsel when the Examiner reaches this case for action on the merits to discuss any remaining issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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